

CLEAN VERSION OF AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 3, lines 26-44, should read:

Homologs of the novel orotidine-5'-phosphate decarboxylase gene having the sequence SEQ ID NO: 1 mean, for example, allelic variants which have at least 80% homology at the derived amino-acid level, preferably at least 90% homology, very particularly preferably at least 95% homology. The amino-acid sequence derived from SEQ ID NO: 1 is to be seen in SEQ ID NO: 2. Allelic variants comprise, in particular, functional variants which are obtainable by deletion, insertion or substitution of nucleotides from the sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO: 1, the intention being, however, that the enzymatic activity of the derived synthesized proteins advantageously be retained for the insertion of one or more genes. However, if the intention is to produce mutants in the orotidine-5'-phosphate decarboxylase gene with the aid of SEQ ID NO: 1 and its homologs in the novel process for producing uracil-auxotrophic microorganisms, non-functional genes will be used, that is to say genes which lead to enzymatically inactive proteins. In this case, it is advantageous to use sequences which display homologs with SEQ ID NO: 1 or its homologs advantageously at the 3' and 5' ends.

IN THE CLAIMS:

10. (amended) A process for inserting DNA into microorganisms, which comprises

inserting a vector which comprises an intact orotidine-5'-phosphate decarboxylase gene having the sequence SEQ ID NO: 1 or its homologs isolated from microorganisms which have at least 80% homology with the sequences SEQ ID NO: 1 as claimed in claim 1 together with at least one other nucleic acid